

undertaking as I conceive, is pregnant with many great benefits to this Province in particular, taking this to be granted which I believe will hardly be denied that very few Gentlemen of this Province, nay not all the Justices of the Provincial and County Courts have yet had the Body to the Laws by them so as to read, meditate, and digest them, without which it is impossible rightly to know them, for indeed they were not to be had but at a great charge and difficult to be got at any cost, and then but in a hand.

I say, supposing this, and now that the plain print and easy price will remove the former difficultys, it cannot, I think, be doubted but that all the Justices of the Provincial and County Courts will have them in their Studies for the reasons aforesaid and the better to enable them to give a right judgment of those laws when pleaded before them and next to them, all other Officers of what nature soever and others and them.

1st In the first place it must needs prevent many tedious and chargeable actions that Men involve themselves in by ignorance, for the law informs them what to do and what to avoid, and it will prevent cunning ill Men from imposing on their Neighbours because these Neighbours will know the Law as well as themselves, and this will make Men more peaceable better Neighbours, and easier to the Courts of Justice.

Secondly, As it will prevent actions and injurys among private persons, so it will instruct the several officers of Courts their duty which will prevent many miscarriages in their offices, daily committed through ignorance, and which give great delays to the Courts, now the several Officers ready discharge of their dutys will be a furtherance to the business of the Court.

Thirdly, the Justices perfect knowledge of the laws will be a great means to the the tryal of every such cause and prevent the turning over books to find out the laws, when they shall know at first mentioning what the law is and how it stands related to other laws, and be able to direct the tryal by their own knowledge, and distinguish in the different arguments of each Party which will be a happyness no less to themselves than the Suitors.

Fourthly, the grand and petty Jurys also being acquainted and knowing the laws will more readily and aptly discharge their several offices, more might be enumerated but if all these benefits, nay if but some of them answer expectation it will be a considerable advantage to the Province. One can not but expect some who will censure and be ready to condemn both the undertaking and the reasons for it, such (I mean) who know no other way to raise their own Character than by finding fault with and condemning other Men's actions, but they should not discourage any one from prosecuting a good design which approve and pray for the success of the writer.